(b) what are names and designations of such employees now in employment with Government/or Statutory Bodies etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that after 4-5 years of service with World Bank/UN bodies these employees are entitled to a pension of about Rs. 5,000- of per month, tax free ; and

(d) whether there have been cases where Government employees have gone on deputation as at (a) above returned back to Government, gone again second time and returned back to Government and if so name and designations of such personnel now serving with Government or recently retired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prohibition on Irradiated Food

3167. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Maine State in USA has passed legislation prohibiting irradiated food in any form from being sold there ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that other States in USA are considering similar measures ;

(c) whether in several other countries like West Germany, UK, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand food irradiation is not permitted ; and

(d) whether in view of serious controversy over dangers from food irradiation, whether Government would place a moratorium on food irradiation until safety is ensured and tests for irradiation developed and labelling is ensured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present, countries like West Germany, UK, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand do not permit food irradiation owing to many reasons including the lack of method of detecting irradiated food. Advisory Committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods of UK has, however, recommended irradiation. In USA the federal Government has cleared irradiation upto 1 Kgy for all foods and 30 Kgy for spices. A joint committee of PAO, WHO and IAEA has cleared foods irradiated upto an overall average dose of 10 Kgy as safe for human consumption. Therefore, there is no valid reason for placing a moratorium on food irradiation in India. However, detailed rules, under the Atomic Energy Act, 1960 are being evolved to ensure safety for consumers before clearing irradiated foods for consumption in India.

Seminar on consumer health and Rational Drugs

3168. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to satate :

(a) whether Mahila Dakshta Samiti had recently organised a Seminar on Consumer Health and rational drugs in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Seminar ; and

(c) whether a recommendation was made for creation of Voluntary Drug Inspectors with powers to monitor and ensure drug control and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Seminar are in the Statement attached. (*See* below).

(c) The qualifications and experience required for a person who can be appointed as an Inspector under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules are laid down in the said Rules, Persons other than those having requisite qualifications and experience cannot be appointed as Drugs inspectors

However, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 was amended in 1986 empowering, under Section 26 of the Act, any person or a consumer association to get sample of any drug tested to have check on the quality of the drug. Under Section 32 of the Act, any aggrieved individual or consumer association has been empowered to launch prosecution under the provisions of the Act.

Statement

Memorandum to the honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare Government of India

During the last one decade in India a number of groups have taken up the question of unethical practices by the Pharmaceutical Industry and have fighting for a rational drug policy, Adequate pressure has been exerted by doctors, Lawyers, Journalists, women's groups and other social action groups. But most of the questions raised by the activists have remained unanswered.

The world Health Organisation recommended a list of 252 essential drugs which can cure nearly 80% of our diseases. These essential drugs are not produced properly and those which are produced are not distributed properly. Instead, our country is reducing over 60,000 formulations, most of which are either non-essential spurious or banned in other countries. There is no record of the side effects of drugs and no proper system for quality control 14 people died in J.J. Hospital (Bombay) because of the use of low grade Glycerol. While this report has certainly questioned the credibility of the drug industry, we do not know how many such cases are occuring in our country every day which go unnoticed and un-reported. Due to consistent protest, even though the Government has banned E.P. injections are being protected from the ban.

We the people of India Unanimously demand the right to use rational medicine and a health care system based on human interest rather than profit orientation. We demand that :—

1. Essential and life saving drugs be selected on the basis of needs and be made available at reasonable cost.

2. Production and sale of hazardous and irrational drugs be stopped immediately.

3. Un-baised drugs information be made available preferably in regional languages.

4. Strict quality control and drug control should be implemented.

5. Genetic names should be used instead of brand names.

6. The drugs which are banned and/or are withdrawn from the market by the Indian Government be published through Doordarshan.

All India Radio and the Press so that Doctors and patients can keep away from these dangerous drugs.

7. Honorary Voluntary Drug Inspectors be appointed and given some power to supervise drug market.

8. The Drug Control Authority should supervise that chemists do not sell scheduled drugs without prescription.

9. Government suitably amends the drug rules to see that no legal loopholes are left to drug manufacturers to stall ban orders.

10. In order to encourage production of essential drugs, more incentives in the form of higher mark up and exemption of taxes be given for production of essential drugs.

11. Drugs needed for Primary Health case be identified and be made available within a distance of 5 k.m.

12. Laon licensing for manufacture for drugs be stopped immediately.

13. Prescription unit be introduced to reduce over prescriptions of drugs.

14. No drugs should be advertised on Doordarshan or Akashvani.

15. Deterrant punishment be given to defaulters of drug manufacturing.

16. Indian Medical Association should set up voluntary testing laboratories and Government should finance them through substantial grant.

17. Add one instruction "Don't take medicine without the advice of Doctor" be printed on medicine pack.

Withdrawl of Fee concession by Air Force Bal Bharti Public School and Silver Jubilee School, Subroto Park, New Delhi.

3169. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Force Bal Bharti Public School and the Silver Jublee School, Subroto Park, under his Ministry have withdrawn the fee concession being given to ex-Air Force personnels w.e.f. the academic year 1988-89;

(b) if so , what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to restore the fee concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Air Force Bal Bharti School and the Air Force Golden Jublee Institute, Subroto Park run by Air Force Educational and Cultural Society out of Air Force Welfare Funds have withdrawn, with effect from academic year 1988-89, fee concession to children of ex-Air Force personnel who have proceeded on premature retirement and of airmen who have opted for discharge expressing unwillingness to continue or to extend their service. Air Force is not running any school by the name of Silver Jubilee School. The Board of Governors of the said Society decided to withdraw this fee concession due to the rising expenditure on pay and allowances and the inability of the Society to bear the increasing financial burden on account of this concession.

(c) The above Schools are run by Air Force Educational and Cultural Society out of Air Force Welfare Funds and not by the Ministry of Defence. The Society does not propose to restore the fee concession granted earlier.